

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a programming document that lists transportation projects that will be undertaken within the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) planning area and funded in part by federal money. According to federal regulations governing transportation planning, the transportation improvement program is to be a staged multiyear program of transportation improvement projects that *"shall cover a period of not less than three years and be consistent with the urban area transportation plan."*

The TIP is directly related to the City and County's Capital Improvement Programs and is prepared in conjunction with the Lincoln CIP each year. The TIP identifies funding amounts by source of funding, jurisdictional responsibility, type of project, and year of funding for these projects. This program includes "Priority Year" projects which is a listing of projects to be carried out within the first three years of the program, FYs 2003, 2004 and 2005. The "Outyear" projects listed in this program are for informational purposes to show the programming intent for future years. Since the TIP becomes part of the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP), the frequency and cycle for updating the TIP is compatible with STIP development and approval process.

Long Range Transportation Plan

The *Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP) for the Lincoln MPO is contained in the *Lincoln and Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan*. Included in the LRTP are specific long-range plans for the Functional Street and Road Classification; Urban Street Improvement Plan (1-25 Year Program); Future Road Improvements in County; Goods and Freight Movement Plan; and the Lincoln Area Pedestrian, Bicycle and Trails Plans. More generalized plans are included for Public Transportation, Railroads, and Airports and Airfields. The following program of transportation improvement projects was reviewed and found to be consistent with the current *Long Range Transportation Plan* adopted by the Lincoln MPO November 14, 2000.

During the FY 2001-2002, the City and County initiated the creation of a new joint Comprehensive Plan and Long Range Transportation Planning effort. The draft Plan has been reviewed by the Lincoln-Lancaster Planning Commission and was recommend to the Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board on April 3, 2002. The Lincoln City Council and Lancaster County Board are holding joint public hearings on May 8th and May 22nd and expect adoption of the final Plan on May 28, 2002. The Lincoln MPO Officials Committee review and action and the MPO endorsement is expected in June, 2002.

To see that this year's program transportation projects is also working in accord with the new plan, an additional review was undertaken to ensure that this TIP is consistent is the draft *Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan* and *Long Range Transportation Plan*. This listing was found to be consistent with the both current *Long Range Transportation Plan* and the new draft *Long Range Transportation Plan* currently under review.

Public Involvement Process

The transportation planning process allows for public involvement at various points within the transportation plan and program development. This involves a series of steps from the adoption of the *Lincoln-Lancaster County Comprehensive Plan* and *Long Range Transportation Plan* to the programming of projects and the actual construction of the transportation facilities. The critical decision points in the transportation planning process are: 1) the development of a 25 year transportation plan, 2) the street improvement program which identifies priorities for planned projects, 3) Capital Improvement Programs for a period of six years, 4) Project Design and Project Construction. The first two steps are included in the long range planning process, the third step consolidates the Capital Improvement Programs of the City and County with the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the last step is the specific project design and development.

The City and the County each have an established procedure for adopting improvement programs. Both City and County processes include review by the City-County Planning Commission for compliance with the Comprehensive Plan and formal advertised Public Hearings before the Planning Commission and City Council or County Board. The Railroad Transportation Safety District (RTSD) also allows for public input within open advertised public meeting. The consolidation of these improvement programs are coordinated in the TIP is reviewed by the Technical Committee before it is referred to a formal hearing by the Planning Commission. The Planning Commission forwards their recommendation to the MPO Officials Committee.